

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA**

Open Doors to Federal Courts Educational Program

2004 Program Theme: The Role of the Courts in Balancing Liberty and Safety

2004 Essay Topic Question:

“What protection do you think you are entitled to under the 4th Amendment at school, and in your car, and how does it compare to how Courts apply the 4th Amendment Today?”

Overview

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana, the Federal Bar Association Young Lawyers Division and the Louisiana Center for Law and Civic Education have teamed up to coordinate a project focusing on liberty and safety.

Essays will be judged by participating U.S. District Court staff and members of the Federal bar Association. The judges will identify a winner at the program on November 10, 2004, who will be awarded a \$200 scholarship to be used toward the purchase of books for college and a commemorative gavel.

Contest Objectives and Guidelines

The goal of the *Essay Contest* is to help students develop the skills, attitudes and values they need to become responsible and influential citizens. Thinking through and writing about the process of developing a law is a tangible way for students to participate in the Open Doors to Federal Courts program.

Each student who wishes to participate must write an essay of 1,000 words or less. This contest is designed to foster creative thinking, each essayist is asked to adhere to the following guidelines:

All essays should be typewritten in a 12-point font and include:

- the student’s name, address, phone number, age, and grade level, and school;
- the student’s parish of residence;
- completed parental release form (if under 18);
- school name, address, phone number, and teacher’s name;
- documentation of all research.

Resources

The United States Constitution and United States Supreme Court laws. See also www.laed.uscourts.gov Resource Link.

Selection Criteria and Prizes

All entries will be judged according to the criteria described in the “Contest Objective and Guidelines.”

In addition to earning a \$200 scholarship and commemorative gavel, the winning essay will be posted on the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana and Louisiana Center for Law and Civic Education websites.

Contest Entering Process:

The contest is open to all high school students participating in the Open Doors to Federal Courts Careers program on Wednesday, November 10, 2004.

Mail or fax your entries to:

Essay Contest
Louisiana Center for Law and Civic Education
601 St. Charles Avenue, 4th Floor
New Orleans, LA 70130
Fax: (504) 569-8766

Deadline

To be eligible for the competition, essays must be mailed **or** faxed to the Louisiana Center for Law and Civic Education and postmarked or received by **November 1, 2004**. The United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana, Federal Bar Association Young Lawyers Division and the Louisiana Center for Law and Civic bear no responsibility for loss or damage to entries. All entries submitted become the property of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana and its Open Doors committee.

Questions

Contact Maria Yiannopoulos, Louisiana Center for Law and Civic Education at (800) 421-5722, ext. 124, (504) 619-0124 or maria@lsba.org.